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Assembly California Legislature



MIKE FEUER

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY-SECOND DISTRICT

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REVENUE AND TAXATION

August 13, 2007

Ms. Diane Matsuda
Executive Director
California Cultural and Historical Endowment
900 N Street, Room 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Matsuda,

I am writing in support of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's application requesting \$3 million in California Cultural and Historical Endowment funding to restore the historic May Company building (now known as LACMA West). The museum is seeking partial funding from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment for much-needed improvements to the art deco building's mechanical systems, which have not been updated since they were originally installed in 1939.

LACMA is a public museum where hundreds of thousands of visitors visit each year. It has been committed to this project for many years as part of its phased capital campaign effort and has integrated the building into the museum's regular operations.

LACMA is in the midst of a three-phase campaign to construct new facilities, renovate and reuse existing structures such as the LACMA West building, and vastly improve the museum visitor's experience. The renovation and historically sensitive reuse of the May Company building is central to the museum's second phase of its Transformation campaign.

In a city like Los Angeles, where the focus is so often on the new, it is important to support the cultural and architectural heritage to be found in structures such as the May Company department store. The building is an architectural gem, and the restoration and reuse of this historic site will help sustain and preserve the history of Los Angeles.

I strongly support this project and hope the CCHE will grant these much-needed funds. LACMA is an important part of Los Angeles and California's cultural heritage, and a restored LACMA West will enhance the museum's ability to serve its community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mike Feuer".

Mike Feuer
Assemblymember, 42nd District

